

# Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection for Timber Sale Operating Plans

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service announces its intent to request an extension of a currently approved information collection for the agency's timber sale operating plans. Forest Service timber sale contracts require purchasers to prepare these operating plans.

**DATES:** Comments must be received in writing on or before January 17, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** All comments should be addressed to: Director, Timber Management, MAIL STOP 1105, Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, D.C. 20090-6090.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Rex Baumbach, Timber Management Staff, at (202) 205-0855.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Description of Information Collection

The following describes the information collection to be extended:

*Title:* Timber Sale Operating Plans.

*OMB Number:* 0596-0086.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* March 31, 1997.

*Type of Request:* Extension of a previously approved information collection.

*Abstract:* The information collected is used by the agency to plan the agency timber sale contract administration workload and to determine whether timber sale purchasers have had scheduled operations delayed and are, therefore, eligible for an extension of the contract termination date. Respondents

are National Forest System timber sale purchasers who prepare a chart or letter within 60 days of a timber sale contract award, and annually thereafter until the contract has been completed. The timber sale purchaser outlines time frames and methods of accomplishing road construction, timber harvesting, and other contract requirements.

The information is required by timber sale contract provisions in the 2400-6, Timber Sale Contract, and 2400-6T, Timber Sale Contract.

Data gathered in this information collection is not available from other sources.

*Estimate of Burden:* 30 minutes per response.

*Type of Respondents:* Individuals, large and small businesses, and corporations purchasing National Forest timber sales.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 5,000 per year.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.5.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 3,750.

The agency invites comments on the following: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of this agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

#### Use of Comments

All comments received in response to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: November 8, 1996.

Valdis E. Mezainis,

*Acting Chief.*

[FR Doc. 96-29430 Filed 11-15-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

#### Skranak Road Construction Kootenai National Forest, Lincoln County, Montana

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

**SUMMARY:** Henry Skranak of Libby, Montana is the owner of record of landlocked private property located in portions of Section 12 and 13, Township 26 North, Range 31 West, Principal Montana Meridian. The Forest Service has received from Skranak a special use permit application for the construction of a dry season road to his property. The Libby Ranger District on the Kootenai National Forest intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess and disclose the environmental effects of road construction on National Forest. The Skranak decision area is located approximately 26 miles south of Libby, Montana.

The EIS will tier to the Kootenai National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and Final EIS of September 1987, which provides overall guidance for forest management of the area.

**DATE:** Written comments and suggestions should be received on or before December 18, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** The Responsible Official is Robert L. Schrenk, Forest Supervisor, Kootenai National Forest. Written comments and suggestions concerning the scope of the analysis should be sent to Lawrence A. Froberg, District Ranger, Libby Ranger District, 12557 US Hwy 37 N, Libby Montana, 59923.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jon Jerecek, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Libby Ranger District. Phone: (406) 293-7773.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The west side of the Skranak property is the common boundary of a portion of the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness. All of the Skranak property and proposed road construction is located within the Inventoried Roadless Area #671—Cabinet Face East. The decision area is occupied grizzly bear habitat.

#### Proposed Action

The Kootenai National Forest is proposing to issue a Special Use Permit to Henry Skranak to construct a 10 foot wide running surface road and use the